

Subject: <no subject>

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I have learned that our government has only one agency devoted to the development of non-animal test methods~the Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM). Sadly, in its 10 years of existence, ICCVAM has approved exactly one non-animal test method that originated in the U.S.

This is not because there are no non-animal test methods. To the contrary, ICCVAM,s European counterpart has approved dozens of non-animal test methods. Yet our government is working to keep U.S. policies in the Dark Ages. ICCVAM finds a reason to ignore or to refuse to approve even those methods that are accepted~and in widespread use~internationally.

It would appear that ICCVAM has become a major obstacle to the adoption of more sophisticated and accurate test methods. ICCVAM clings to decades-old animal-poisoning tests that were never proved to be relevant to humans to begin with.

This causes two major problems. First, animals are being killed needlessly, when non-animal tests could be adopted instead. Second, public health is jeopardized, as non-animal test methods have been demonstrated to be more accurate, more sensitive, and more protective of public health.

As a result of its poor performance and pressure from PETA and other members of the U.S. animal protection community, ICCVAM was told by Congress last year to develop a five-year plan to identify areas of high priority. Shamefully, ICCVAM,s „new% draft plan is nothing new and shows that ICCVAM has no intention of entering the 21st century.

I want you to accept internationally validated non-animal methods, including non-animal test methods for skin and eye irritation, phototoxicity, and pyrogenicity (fever induction), and to follow the additional December 2006 recommendations of the animal protection community <<http://www.stopanimaltests.com/pdfs/ICCVAM-5yearplan-Final.pdf>> .

Sincerely,

Martha Olver